25 June 1974

Hello Harold,

It was nice of you to write. Of all the people involved in this travesty of mine you were the only person kind enough (concerned?) to write anything. Maybe I am feeling sorry for myself. Usually, I get hacked as hell when I get taken, but this time I let myself get greatly wrapped up in what was taking place. Thank God, too, the editor for whom I was writing took his time.

Your letter was appreciated, although I confess I am not sure I knew to whom you were alluding sometimes. Also, I am not sure to whom you were giving gentle hell. I am not sure who was the fool, fooler, and foolee in this case. I think I could qualify for the first and last terms in this mess.

Do you know Professor Ford? From all his documents, letters to me, published interviews, and telephone conversations I will SWEAR I reported quite accurately what he had said was his news message. The documents mentioned refer to a purported FBI document which links a young Cong. Nixon with a labor organizer named Rubinstein. This is supposed to be HUAC stuff, circa. 1947. I do not know if it is valid and was trying to explain this to Trowbridge Ford when he hung up on me. I understand there MAY have been two Rubinsteins (that seems odd, like two Oswalds). Anyhow, I never got the chance to verify any of this.

May I ask WHY Sprague is doing this harm? I assume (1) he thinks he is more than correct; (2) he is planting red herrings.

I understand what you say about my Nixon/JFK/Ford piece. What I do not understand is WHY? But, naturally I will honor your request not to be asked why. Someday, perhaps, I might impose some time to visit you and ask you to answer some questions for me.

I have no axe to grind, beyond a journalist's dedication to finding truth. I wish I had the time and funds to start dogging the various names and people involved in all this, because I think I might get some facts. But, after my first stab at all this I am pretty turned off on the whole situation. Gee, even when I covered what few crime stories and the secret military stuff it was like child's play compared to this mess.

I may have misled you on Fletch Prouty's role as an "investigator." He has never really claimed to be, actually. In fact and fairness, he has told me he really knows little about it and has never looked into it in great detail. He is, of course, close to many of the principals on all sides of the investigation. I have known the man for two years and have talked with him at length...he has been in my home. I trust this man, as far as I know him. Interestingly, I trust you very much--instinct, I guess. I like what I have read, what you have done, and how you document what you write. I trust people with guts and honesty.

Sorry for rambling.

I began to wonder in my own mind about Professor Trow Ford's "rationality" as you mention in your letter. I am still very puzzled about his 180° switch in attitude and his sudden, vitriolic attack on me personally, plus the threat of a law suit. It is really weird.

The major document is the FBI document, which I understand either Tris Coffin or Mr. Fensterwald checked with you. I am not certain this paper is valid (although all checks I made seem to indicate it is). But, I am not sure what set T. Ford off about it. I am still not done researching this. I plan to ask some people in Chicago to ascertain who and what of two Jack Rubinsteins in that city. I am sure the National Archives could save me the trouble. If.

No, I am not unhappy about my violence seminar. I had postponed it partly because I had a shakey ~~fix~~ feeling I was not on very solid ground as a "scholar," much less as a journalist. Finances caused some trouble, too. You are correct--I would have been in a bit of a bind. I am taking your advice and ignoring the whole thing for the present. I simply do not have enough background to sort stories or to know whom to believe at this point. But, and this I pledge, I will find out. So, I doubt if anything I write will be in print for quite some amount of time now...but, I surely plan to dig. You hit it when you mentioned SELF-RESPECT.

Harold, I did deeply appreciate that last paragraph. I think the answer is YES, all around. So, thank you. And, stay in touch...you're an anchor with reality in this Alice in Wonderland stuff.

Cordially,

David

JDT